AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 U.S. Appln. No. 09/918,532

July Company

more preferably 6.5% by weight, based on the weight of the total monomers, of components having a molecular weight of 100,000 or less.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

(Amended) A process of producing an acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesive

comprising

feeding a monomer solution comprising a mixture of an alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer and a radical polymerization initiator, and carbon dioxide to a joint block equipped with a line mixer;

mixing the monomer solution and carbon dioxide in the joint mixer;

feeding the resulting mixture to a continuous reactor; and

performing continuous bulk polymerization at a polymerization temperature of 50 to 180°C for a residence time of 0.5 to 60 minutes in a continuous reaction zone of said reactor.

3. (Amended) An acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesive obtained by a process comprising:

feeding a monomer solution comprising a mixture of an alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer and a radical polymerization initiator, and earlier dioxide to a joint block equipped with a line mixer;

mixing the monomer solution and carbon dioxide in the joint mixer;

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feeding the resulting mixture to a continuous reactor; and

performing continuous bulk polymerization at a polymerization temperature of 50 to 180°C for a residence time of 0.5 to 60 minutes in a continuous reaction zone of said reactor..

- 4. (Amended) The acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesive as claimed in claim 3, which comprises 10% by weight or less, based on the weight of the total monomers, of components having a molecular weight of 100,000 or less.
- 5. (Amended) The acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesive as claimed in claim 3, which comprises 6.5% by weight or less, based on the weight of the total monomers, of components having a molecular weight of 100,000 or less.

6. (Amended) A process of producing an acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesive comprising:

feeding a monomer solution comprising a mixture of an alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer and a radical polymerization initiator, and carbon dioxide to a joint block equipped with a line mixer;

mixing the monomer solution and carbon dioxide in the joint mixer;

feeding the resulting mixture to a continuous reactor; and

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performing continuous bulk polymerization at a polymerization temperature of 50 to 100°C for a residence time of 60 to 200 minutes in a continuous reaction zone of said reactor.

(Amended) An acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesive obtained by a process comprising:

feeding a monomer solution comprising a mixture of an alkyl (meth)acrylate monomer and a radical polymerization initiator, and carbon dioxide to a joint block equipped with a line mixer;

mixing the monomer solution and carbon dioxide in the joint mixer;

feeding the resulting mixture to a continuous reactor; and

performing continuous bulk polymerization at a polymerization temperature of 50 to 100°C for a residence time of 60 to 200 minutes in a continuous reaction zone of said reactor..

- 9. (Amended) The acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesive as claimed in claim 8, which comprises 10% by weight or less, based on the weight of the total monomers, of components having a molecular weight of 100,000 or less.
- 10. (Amended) The acrylic pressure-sensitive adhesive as claimed in claim 8, which comprises 6.5% by weight or less, based on the weight of the total monomers, of components having a molecular weight of 100,000 or less.